## Message Text

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**ACTION NEA-06** 

INFO OCT-01 SS-14 ISO-00 NSC-05 NSCE-00 INR-05 L-01 H-01

EB-03 PRS-01 CIAE-00 SIL-01 /038 W

----- 014172

R 221220Z MAY 75 FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4456 INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN LWTI AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS AMEMBASSY JIDDA AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

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LIMDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: ENGR, ELTN, JO, SA, LE, US

SUBJECT: TAPLINE PROBLEM: GOL TECHNICAL TEAM

REF: BEIRUT 6113; JIDDA 3617

- 1. ASKED ABOUT CURRENT SITUATION, DODGE, TAPLINE, BEIRUT, SAID IT APPEARS THAT THREE-MAN GOL TECHNICAL TEAM MAY SUCCEED IN ARRANGING VISIT TO SAUDI ARABI NEXT FEW DAYS. SAUDI AMBASSADOR HERE AND LEBANESE AMBASSADOR JIDDA ENDEAVORING MAKE ARRANGEMENTS. TEAM WOULD CONSIST OF GOL FINANCE DG KHALIL SALEM, OIL MINISTRY FINANCIAL EXPERT RAYMOND HITTI AND ISSAM ACHOUR, BANKER-ECONOMIST OVERSEEING FORMER IPC RPT IPC OPERATIONS FOR GOL. (COMMENT: THESE ARE GOL'S MOST COMPETENT.) PRIMARY PURPOSE WOULD BE DEMONSTRATE GOL INTEREST IN RESOLVING PROBLEM BUT TEAM WOULD ALSO HOPE REVIEW PROBLEM WITH SAG OIL MINISTRY (YAMANI IF AVAILABLE) AND POSSIBLY FOREIGN MINISTER. DODGE ADDED THAT IT IS HOPED SEND MINISTERIAL TEAM SOON AFTER A NEW GOVERNMENT FORMED.
- 2. REGARDING TAPLINE STAFF REDUCTION, DODGE SAID GOL (PRESIDENT PRESUMABLY) STILL "EXPECTS TAPLINE TO DO NOTHING", PER BEIRUT 6113. (FEW DAYS AGO DODGE HAD SAID "CRUNCH MAY COME THIS MONDAY" CONFIDENTIAL

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REGARDING STAFF.) HE UNABLE BE MORE SPECIFIC TODAY

## BUT HAS PROMISED KEEP US INFORMED.

COMMENT: COMMON GOL TACTIC REGARDING THESE PROBLEMS IS SHOW OF ACTIVITY AND ASSURANCES ACTION IMMINENT. DODGE, HOWEVER, BELIEVES GOL MAKING SERIOUS EFFORT ARRANGE VISIT PARA ONE. AT THIS WRITING THERE EVEN CHANCE CURRENT POLITICAL AND SECURITY UNCERTAINTIES MIGHT DELAY VISIT BUT MIGHT ALSO DISSUADE TAPLINE FROM GOING AHEAD WITH STAFF REDUCTION AT THIS TIME. GODLEY

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## Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994 Channel Indicators: n/a

**Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED Concepts: PETROLEUM PIPELINES** 

Control Number: n/a Copy: SINGLE Draft Date: 22 MAY 1975 Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960 Decaption Note: Disposition Action: RELEASED Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1975BEIRLIT06582

Document Number: 1975BEIRUT06582 Document Source: CORE Document Unique ID: 00

Drafter: n/a Enclosure: n/a Executive Order: GS Errors: N/A

Film Number: D750180-0173

From: BEIRUT

Handling Restrictions: n/a

Image Path:

Legacy Key: link1975/newtext/t19750525/aaaaavum.tel Line Count: 70

Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM Office: ACTION NEA Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Original Handling Restrictions: n/a Original Previous Classification: n/a Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a

Page Count: 2

Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 75 BEIRUT 6113, 75 JIDDA 3617
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: KelleyW0

Review Comment: n/a Review Content Flags: Review Date: 13 AUG 2003

**Review Event:** 

Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <13 AUG 2003 by KelleyW0>; APPROVED <02 DEC 2003 by KelleyW0>

**Review Markings:** 

Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JÚL 2006

**Review Media Identifier:** Review Referrals: n/a Review Release Date: n/a Review Release Event: n/a **Review Transfer Date:** Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a

Secure: OPEN Status: NATIVE

Subject: TAPLINE PROBLEM: GOL TECHNICAL TEAM TAGS: ENRG, ELTN, JO, SA, LE, US, TAPLINE To: STATE

Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 05 JUL 2006